

This week I [joined several other representatives](#) in expressing concern to the President regarding his recently drafted executive order that would make the merit-based federal contracting system more susceptible to political corruption. The new requirement would mandate that anyone bidding for a federal contract disclose all political contributions by the company or its lead officers. Although this executive order is being touted as increasing transparency and accountability, the reality is that contractors are already barred from political contributions and business leaders are already required to report all individual contributions over \$200 to the Federal Election Commission. Explicitly adding the contribution information to the procurement process only serves to politicize federal contracting, causing federal agencies to be more likely to reward or punish bidders based on their ideology or the views of individuals in a bidding company. I do not believe we should allow our merit-based system to become more vulnerable to political favoritism and will continue to oppose the change should the President implement this executive order.